Announcement from the Office for Sponsored Programs

Request for Interest in proposal submission

Date: September 4, 2012

To: Research Faculty

RE: Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program (R25) PAR-12-277

The National Institute of Health has limited the number of submissions to one (1) per institution for the above referenced Funding Opportunity Announcement. From the FOA:

Number of Applications: Only one application per institution is allowed

We would like to determine if there is a need for an internal white paper competition.

The full proposal is due October 26, 2012.

A summary of the Funding Opportunity Description is below. To view the full FOA, go to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-277.html

Please email Angie Shotts at ashotts@fa.ua.edu indicating interest by 5:00p.m., Tuesday, September 11, 2012. The subject line should indicate “R25-Bac.” Please copy the Associate Dean for Research in your college and include a return receipt request to ensure email delivery and receipt.

Should an internal competition with a white paper submission be necessary, you will be notified of the process and due date for the white paper as soon as possible after deadline for interest notification. Please contact Angie Shotts, Office for Sponsored Programs at 348-8070 or your respective Associate Dean for Research if you have any questions.

Funding Opportunity Description:
This FOA encourages applications from institutions that propose creative and innovative research education programs in the mission area(s) of the NIH. The NIH Research Education (R25) grant mechanism is designed to support the development of creative and innovative research education programs for the development of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical researchers, or for public education and outreach on health-related research to a variety of audiences. Although research education grants are not typical research instruments, they do involve experiments in education and/or dissemination of research knowledge that require an evaluation plan in order to determine their effectiveness. As such, each application must include a plan to evaluate the activities proposed (see Section IV, Evaluation Plan).

The proposed research education program may complement ongoing research training and education occurring at the applicant institution, but the proposed educational experiences must be distinct from those research training and research education programs currently receiving federal support. The R25 is not a substitute for an institutional research training program (T32) and can not be used to circumvent or supplement Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) mechanisms.
The NIH recognizes a unique and compelling need to promote diversity in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences research workforce. The NIH expects efforts to diversify the workforce to lead to the recruitment of the most talented researchers from all groups; to improve the quality of the educational and training environment; to balance and broaden the perspective in setting research priorities; to improve the ability to recruit subjects from diverse backgrounds into clinical research protocols; and to improve the Nation's capacity to address and eliminate health disparities. Although the NIH currently provides multiple opportunities to develop research careers and improve participation for individuals from groups with low representation in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, reports from the National Science Foundation (NSF), (see http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd) provide strong evidence that diversity remains an important problem that the entire research enterprise must actively address.

Accordingly, the NIH continues to encourage institutions to diversify their student and faculty populations and thus to increase the participation of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences such as: individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research. Institutions are encouraged to identify candidates who will increase diversity on a national or institutional basis.

The NIGMS Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program provides the opportunity to increase the pool of community college students from underrepresented (UR) backgrounds who go on to research careers in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and will be available to participate in NIH-funded research. This program promotes partnerships or consortia between community colleges or other two-year post-secondary educational institutions granting the associate degree with bachelor-degree granting colleges or universities that have a track record of enrolling, retaining and graduating students who pursue advanced degrees in biomedical and behavioral research fields. The Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program expects that the joint efforts of baccalaureate degree-granting and associate degree-granting institutions will foster the development of a well-integrated institutional program that will provide students with the necessary academic preparation and skills to enable their transition and successful completion of the baccalaureate and subsequently, more advanced degrees in biomedical and behavioral sciences.